

Dunloup Creek Watershed

History

From 1965-2005, residents have sought relief from flooding.

- 1965 First request to NRCS to study problem.
- 1976 Watershed Plan-Environmental Impact Statement recommended channel enlargement and land treatment. Work did not proceed.
- 1984 Mutual agreement between Sponsors and NRCS to de-authorize the project.
- 1987-1996 Continued flooding along Dunloup Creek.
- 1996 New application for assistance submitted to NRCS.
- 1998 Local Implementation Plan was provided, no funding tied to the plan.
- 2001 Local Sponsors requested a PL-566 Watershed Plan.
- 2002 WV Statewide Flood Protection Plan was released.
- 2004 NRCS began re-evaluation of Dunloup Creek with the goal of producing a PL-566 Watershed Plan.
- Oct. 2006 NRCS will release draft Watershed Plan-Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public review and comment.



Recent Flood Events

September 19, 2004
July 22-26, 2004
May 28, 2004
November 12 & 19, 2003
March 2003
May 2002
July 8, 26, & 29, 2001
January 19, 1996
Mid-Spring 1995
March 4, 1993
May 1987
Spring 1986



Sponsors and Supporters

Local Sponsors

- Southern Conservation District
- West Virginia State Conservation Committee

With Support From

- Dunloup Creek Watershed Association
- New River Gorge National Park Service
- Fayette County Commission
- Raleigh County Commission
- Fayette County Office of Emergency Services
- WV Office of Emergency Services

Planning for the Dunloup Creek Watershed Project is being conducted under the authority of Public Law 83-566, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001-1008).



Dunloup Creek Watershed

Resource Information

Hydrologic Unit Number: 05050004070

Climate: Humid, continental

Watershed size: 31,150 acres

Land Uses:
6% grassland
84% forestland
8% residential area
2% mine land

Estimated watershed population: 3,000

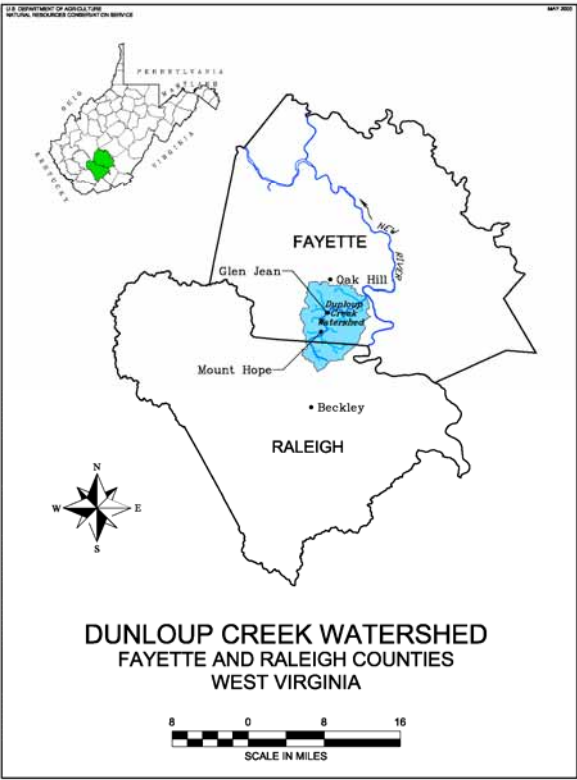
Per Capita Income: (1999) \$13,809

Unemployment Rate: (Fayette County 2006)
5.6%

Resource Concerns: Flood damage and health and safety are the primary resource concerns.

Alternatives Considered
Structural measures such as dams, channels, floodwalls and dikes were ineffective in solving the flooding problem.

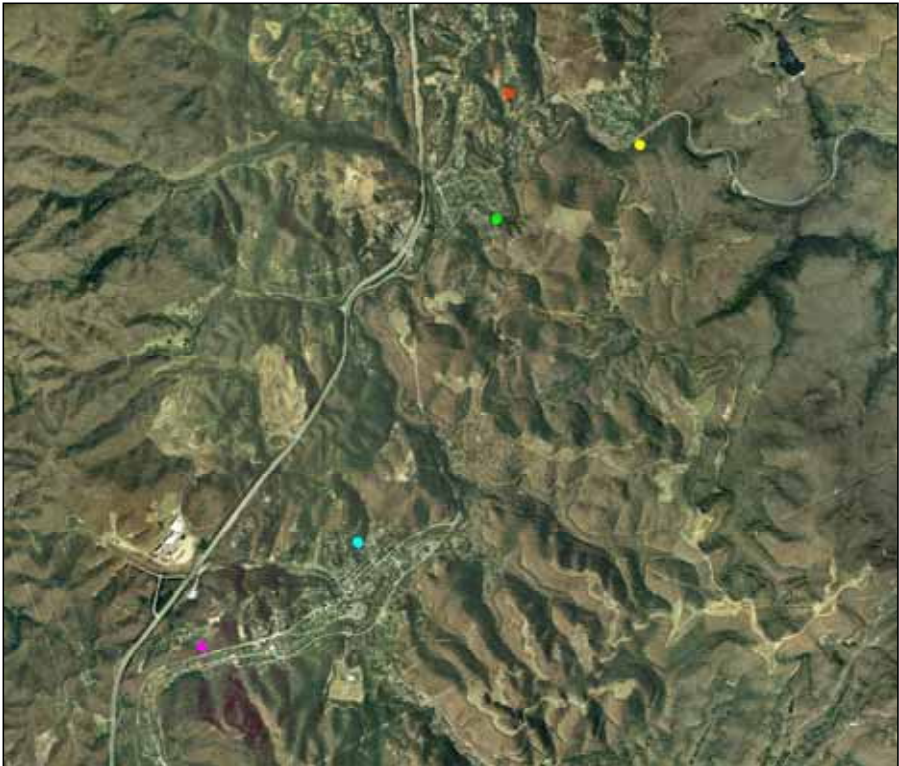
Alternative 1 – Voluntary Floodplain Buyout
Alternative 2 – No Action Future Without Project



Project Location

The project location encompasses properties along Dunloup Creek within the approximate 100-year floodplain as defined by the NRCS mapping. The Dunloup Creek Watershed is located in Raleigh and Fayette Counties of West Virginia. Portions of the following communities are located in the project area:

- Kilsyth
- Mt. Hope
- Glen Jean
- Red Star
- Harvey



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Recommended Alternative Voluntary Floodplain Buyout

The purpose of the project is to reduce flood-related damage to property concentrated within the 100-year floodplain of Dunloup Creek.

Watershed problems consist of repetitive flooding to approximately 300 homes, businesses, churches, yards, outbuildings, roads, utilities and other property located in the floodplain of Dunloup Creek. Human health and safety are compromised during flood events. Property values are diminished due to flooding. Opportunities exist to reduce flood damages, enhance personal safety and improve the standard of living for residents who live in a distressed area. There are also opportunities for gradual, long-term positive environmental benefits associated with the removal of flood prone properties from the floodplain.

The recommended alternative consists of a voluntary floodplain buyout. Eligible properties would be removed and the floodplain would be returned to natural conditions.



Project Costs

Costs include the purchase of the property based on the appraised value, plus an enhancement factor that will be determined for each property. All fees and costs associated with the purchase and transfer of the property to the local sponsors are included in the total costs. Demolition and site restoration is included in the project costs as well as funds for engineering, technical and administrative assistance to carry out the project.

The project is scheduled to be implemented over a 5 year period.

Applications will be taken during a sign-up period. Two primary criteria will be used to rank applications and administer the funding - depth of flooding on the first floor and date of the application.

Project Benefits

Project benefits include:

- Removal of flood damaged buildings within the 100-year floodplain.
- Human health and safety will be improved for residents who relocate from the floodplain.
- Risks to life and property associated with flooding will be removed for participating individuals.
- There will be reduced need for emergency services and rescue operations as residents relocate to non-flood prone areas.
- Personal equity and financial well-being will be enhanced in a distressed community.
- Aesthetic values of the floodplain will be restored.
- Natural floodplain functions will be restored.
- Water quality will be improved with the removal of homes with failing or non-existent septic systems.
- Streambank erosion will be reduced as areas along the stream are converted from mowed yards to natural streambank vegetation.



Environmental Impacts

There are no identified adverse environmental impacts associated with voluntary buyout.

